(c) if so, what preventive steps Government proposes to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Airports Authority of India to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:—

(i) The escalator and other such equipment are being upgraded.

(ii) Instructions for use of such equipment have been displayed prominently for the benefit of the users; and

(iii) The staff of all the agencies at the airport have been imparted familiarisation training for use of such equipment and for dealing with any unforeseen situation.

Private participation in maintenance of airstrips

†469. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is preparing any draft proposal to hand over airstrips as well airport authorities to private companies for maintenance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of the Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long-term lease. At present, the existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up for this exercise.

The purpose of restructuring of airports is as under:—

(i) to improve the managerial efficiency;

(ii) to bring the standards of services/facilities at par with the international standards; and

(iii) to attract investments from private sector for (i) and (ii) above.

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*†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.